



## HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

# HIPAA

## The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996

### *Our Mission*

To bring Hawaii DHS into HIPAA compliance with minimal material impact to operations and services while exceeding the standard of due care expected of health care agencies by the citizens of Hawaii.

### *What is HIPAA?*

HIPAA is a federal law that focuses on protecting health insurance coverage for workers and their families when they change or lose their jobs (portability), and protecting health information and data integrity, confidentiality, and availability (accountability). Public Law 104-191; 45 CFR Parts 160, 162 and 164.

### *How is The DHS impacted by HIPAA?*

The DHS has determined that it is a "Hybrid Entity". The DHS, as a Hybrid Entity, consists of "covered" and "noncovered" components. The following is a list of those components that DHS has designated to be covered by HIPAA:

- 1) The Office of the Director
- 2) The Med-QUEST Division

3) The following components of the Social Services Division:

Social Services Division Administration

Support Services Office Administration

Medicaid Waiver Staff

Adult and Community Care Services Branch:

Medicaid Waiver Programs

All other parts of DHS, including but not limited to, Child Welfare Services, Adult Protective Services, The Office of Youth Services, and the Administrative Appeals Office, will not be subject to HIPAA mandates. However, the current confidentiality policies and practices throughout the Department are very protective of the privacy of clients' health information.

### *DHS's Privacy Officer*

For more information about the efforts being made by the DHS to comply with HIPAA, or to make an official complaint about the DHS's HIPAA compliance please contact DHS's HIPAA Privacy Officer:

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Also, you can learn more about HIPAA and the DHS by referring back to the original menu of the DHS website and clicking on "Med-QUEST Division Web Page". Once there, click on "Helpful HIPAA links" on the bottom, right hand column. Or go to [www.med-quest.us/HIPAA](http://www.med-quest.us/HIPAA).